



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

117/E
D. EVANS
3.11.03

Applicant: Neil McLoughlin
Appl. No.: 09/737,596
Filed: December 18, 2000
Title: NICKEL BARRIER END TERMINATION AND METHOD
Art Unit: 2832
Examiner: K. Easthom
Docket No.: 112690-895

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated December 13, 2002, a Request for Continued Examination, an accompanying Information Disclosure Statement and this Response are being filed. In accordance with the Response, please enter the following amendment :

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 48 as follows:

48. (Twice Amended) A varistor, comprising:

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a semiconductor body including electrically conductive plates interleaved between zinc oxide layers, a body surface, an interior region of the body surface that has not been subjected to treatment or coating and does not therefore show any effect from removal of the treatment or coating, and a plurality of separate terminal regions; and

nickel barrier caps formed by contacting the terminal regions but not the interior region of the semiconductor body with a nickel plating solution in order to form a desirably thick nickel barrier cap over the terminal regions of the semiconductor body without forming a nickel barrier over the interior region of the semiconductor body.